

I visited a new Fellowship on Friday for a small group of Canadian supported seniors who used to have to travel a long distance to one of the other locations which is challenging as they are getting older to sit on a BodaBoda motorbike. It's called Sanga and it's in a government school under construction. ROTOM is allowed to use the space for fellowship. It was lovely to see the familiar faces of those I have met many times before. They had no idea I was coming and were so joyful and told me they wondered where I was and how I had been affected by COVID. It had been the first fellowship for some time due to several factors. One being the cost of food that has increased a huge amount and fuel for transportation is very high.

I met Joseph who looked the same if not younger. He was so enthused to tell me that because of his friend Susanne and the love she has shown him over the years his life has changed for the better. Not only that but his grandchildren and family are happy that Joseph remains strong and able to continue to garden growing vegetables for him and his family. He was so pleased he had access to healthcare and the field nurse who visits to check his pressure and bring his medication which he knows he has to take everyday and he does. He says it has made him feel better and younger.

Joseph was born in May 1942 and he does not look 80 years old but ten years younger. He was able to construct a latrine after ROTOM had dug the hole and laid a base for him. The rest he and his grandson completed and he is so grateful.

COVID was difficult for all of the seniors but Joseph said the village volunteers checked on him often and the field nurse too. ROTOM provided emergency food to help through those very awful months. He also continued to get his medication. Not an easy task as only one vehicle was allowed on the road from ROTOM and no taxis or motorbike taxis allowed.

He told Elizabeth our Field Officer and I that he has a friend who bought land and he helps grow cassava, corn, beans and more. When he told his friend that the vegetables could be harvested, the friend told Joseph to use what he needed and sell some to help his grandchildren. A truly wonderful friend.

I saw a big change in Joseph from three years ago. He is younger, healthier and happy. He thanks Susanne so much for loving him, praying for him and changing his whole life.

In gratitude

Linda Hallett

Volunteer ROTOM Canada

